



IRON COUNTY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ICRTEC CHAIR—MAYOR CONNIE ROBINSON • ICRTAC CHAIR—TOM STRATTON • PLANNING MANAGER—CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Transportation Executive Council (RTEC)

January 8, 2014, 2:00 pm

(Began at conclusion of ICCC Meeting)

Heritage Center

105 North 100 East, Cedar City, Utah

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor H.C. "Dutch" Deutschlander
Mayor Robert Rasmussen
Commissioner Alma Adams
Commissioner David Miller
Mayor Galen Allred
Mayor Donald Landes
Mayor Maile Wilson

REPRESENTING:

Brian Head Town
Enoch City
Iron County
Iron County
Kanarraville
Parowan City
Cedar City

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Dale Brinkerhoff
Mayor Constance Robinson

REPRESENTING:

Iron County
Paragonah Town

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Rob Dotson
Mr. Reed Erickson
Mr. Dave Demas
Mr. Jim McConnell
Mr. Rick Holman
Ms. Liberty Miller

REPRESENTING:

ICRTAC, Enoch City Manager
Iron County Planner
Five County AOG
UDOT, West District Engineer
Cedar City, City Manager
Iron County



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I. **Quorum Declaration**

The meeting was chaired by Mayor H.C. “Dutch” Deutschlander in the absence of Ms. Connie Robinson. Mayor Deutschlander welcomed all present and declared there was a quorum.

II. **Approve Minutes for September 4, 2013**

A motion was made by Commissioner David Miller, seconded by Mayor Rasmussen, to approve the Minutes dated September 4, 2013 of the Iron County Rural Transportation Executive Council with the following comment from Commissioner Miller: Since the three Iron County Commissioners attend the ICCC meeting prior to this meeting, typically all three will stay for the ICRTEC meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III. **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

A. **Review**

Mr. Demas provided copies of the approved Iron County Rural Planning Organization’s Regional Transportation Plan to all Council members. He stated that each of the Technical Advisory Groups have electronic and hard copies of the Plan. Commissioner Miller took a copy for Commissioner Brinkerhoff and Mayor Deutschlander took a copy for Mayor Robinson. Mr. Demas noted that there is no time frame on this plan and that it can be updated yearly. In the future it is the intent to provide project phasing in the plan.

Mr. Demas explained that UDOT has also been provided a copy of the Plan to use in their STIP process. UDOT will put this plan in their project folder so that the identified projects can receive consideration during their budget discussions. As the Plan evolves it will become valuable to UDOT in identifying projects and moving them forward in their process. The Technical Advisory Group is also developing a concept report that will provide additional information to help identify the projects.

IV. **Utah Department of Transportation**

A. **Update**



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Mr. Jim McConnell, West District Engineer of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) provided the update on the STIP process in the absence of Mr. Monte Aldridge.

Mr. McConnell referred the committee to the UDOT website for project updates. He provided a brief update on several projects.

Mr. McConnell reported on the South Cedar Interchange. The project delivery method is called a CM/GC (Construction Manager / General Contractor). UDOT is working with WW Clyde, the general contractor, to obtain bids. The bid process should be finalized within the next 2-3 weeks and if successful they plan to start construction about the first of March. The project should be completed and the interchange open in early fall. The South Cedar Interchange will be similar to the new diverging diamond interchange at exit 8 in St. George. The road will go under I-15. The sidewalk will be located in the middle of the interchange. This design will allow pedestrians to access Main Street and SR-130. Mr. Demas asked who the UDOT Project Manager is for the project. Mr. McConnell stated that the Project Manager is Nancy Jerome.

Mr. McConnell provided information about the on-going median cable barrier project taking place along I-15 in the St. George area. It is a 140 mile long project to install cable barrier, guard rail and precast concrete barriers. Mr. McConnell stated that the work will take place in the Iron County area this summer.

Mr. Adams inquired about the statistics of how the barriers have reduced the number of fatalities. Mr. McConnell did not have the information with him but he could provide statistics on the reduction of head-on collisions and median roll-over accidents at a later date. Mr. Demas stated that the information he has seen indicates that the severity index of the accidents has been reduced by the barrier systems.

Mr. McConnell stated that the STIP process is now underway - about half way through. STIP is a 5 year program for DOT for funding of projects. Funds are programmed for the first 3 years of the STIP, the next 2 years are in the plan, but not set for a funding year yet. Things can be flexible in the last 2 years and can change with each years needs. This phase of the STIP process should be done end of February - first of March. The STIP process identifies all of UDOT's federal, state and local projects.



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Mr. Demas noted that the STIP presentation to the UDOT commission is on schedule to go to the UDOT Commission Workshop in April and approval will come in the summer, Mr. McConnell agreed.

Mr. Erickson questioned the \$2M scheduled for the south leg of the belt route. Mr. McConnell didn't have any specifics on this as of yet. Mr. Demas noted that in his discussions with Steve Platt, the county is requesting an exchange of funds with UDOT for this project. The county would exchange their federal funds for UDOT's state funds at 85 cents on the dollar. He does not know the final status of this request.

Mr. Miller asked if there will be a signal light at the intersection of Highway 56 and the belt route. Mr. McConnell stated there will be turn lanes but no signal light at this time. A signal warrant study would need to be made on the intersection in the future to determine if a signal should be installed. Mr. Miller voiced a concern with this location when connected.

Commissioner Adams asked about progress on exit 75. He felt that there would not be any business development on the west side of freeway because north bound traffic cannot get to the west side easily. Mr. Demas stated that he has been working with Shayne Scott of Parowan on this issue. Parowan is revising the road master plan to show a diamond interchange. We are working with Mr. Aldridge at UDOT to partner a study to identify the needs and what the extent of such a project would be.

V. Functional Class Roads

A. Update

Mr. Demas handed out the most recent copy of the Functional Class Road map from the UDOT website. Mr. Demas spoke with Mr. Abdul Wakil recently and they identified another issue in Beryl area that has since been corrected. Mr. Wakil told Mr. Demas that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has given their verbal approval on the system. Mr. Wakil does not anticipate any changes to be made to the map. Mr. Wakil expects that he will receive the FHWA acceptance letter in the next 2 months. Once the FHWA letter has been received Mr. Wakil will notify each of the counties and their respective RPO's and MPO's. Mr. Demas commented that it has been a long process and should be completed close to the anticipated deadline. Mr. Demas worked closely with the Technical Advisory Group and Mr. Steve Platt with the County to resolve issues. He pointed out that although the roads identified



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in red/brown will come off the system, they were able to minimize the number of roads being removed.

VI. ICRPO RTEC – New Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Demas passed out a copy of the ICRPO Bylaws to the committee. During a previous meeting there was a question raised by Mayor Robinson regarding the term limits for the chairperson. Mr. Demas stated that according to the Bylaws, Article II Page 2 Section 4 – Officers, the committee will elect a new chair person and vice chair every year and that successive terms are not limited. Mr. Demas shared that he spoke with Mayor Robinson last week and she indicated a willingness to continue in the role as chair.

Mr. Demas explained that he had reviewed past meeting minutes but was not able to determine who was elected as the official vice chair but noted that Mayor Deutschlander had always filled that role when necessary

A motion was made by Mayor Donald Landes, seconded by Mayor Robert Rasmussen to approve the re-election of Mayor Constance Robinson and Mayor H.C. Deutschlander as the chair and vice chair of the ICRPO RTEC committee a question on the motion was brought up asking if it was for one or two years. No answer was given.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Demas commented that he had reviewed the Bylaws regarding the question that was raised about voting among the three commissioners. The Bylaws state on Page 3 Article II Section 5-1, that “Each representative jurisdiction shall have one vote”. Commissioner Adams remarked that if there were ever a split decision between the Commissioners, they would need to get together and discuss which way they would vote. Mr. Demas stated that there has never been an issue in the past but he felt it was important to review the Bylaws. Mr. Demas indicated his appreciation for the interest and attendance of all the commissioners at the RTEC meetings.

VII. 2014 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Demas passed out a copy of a proposed 2014 meeting schedule. The committee discussed possible ways to coordinate the ICC, RTEC and RTAC meetings. Mayor



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Deutschlander suggested that the finalization of the RTEC meeting schedule be tabled until after the March meeting of the Iron County Coordinating Council.

VIII. Other Discussion Items

A. Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Demas shared that the Five County AOG has been dealing with questions regarding the proposed gas tax legislation. It is the understanding of the FCAOG that the proposed legislation is for a 3% tax set on the average yearly price per gallon as it leaves the refinery. The tax would be set for one year but could fluctuate and change from year to year. The Legislators are trying to determine a way to make sure it will be a consistent tax rate throughout the state.

A portion of the tax (half) will be distributed as per the B&C road funds with the other half going to the county to be distributed based on a formula determined by the county. Mr. Demas commented that there are many questions and concerns regarding the new gas tax. Mayor Deutschlander asked if the tax would be applied both to gas and diesel. Mr. Demas stated that he had heard conflicting reports regarding gas and diesel so he was not sure. However he had heard that, under the proposed legislation, natural gas would not be taxed at this time. These issues seem to be changing regularly as the proposal is discussed.

Mr. Demas commented that it was reported at the Iron County Coordinating Council that the Resource Management Plan is being re-worked. He encouraged the committee members to get involved in that process especially from a transportation perspective. It is critical to provide input now so that all current and future roads are identified as it is difficult to change the plans once they have been approved. Mr. Adams indicated that the County is the cooperating agency for the area. Mr. Landes stated that it could possibly impact their proposed trail system. Mr. Adams commented that earlier on the BLM was going to pull the transportation plan out of the study. Mr. Erickson indicated that the BLM is not doing the complete transportation element now but they are doing the majority of the major corridors.

Next meeting date will be March 5, 2014 at the Enoch City

IX. Adjournment by unanimous motion.